



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Lori L. Depies, CPA
County Manager

March 20, 2013

Ms. Karen Lewis Young, Chairman
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, Board of Directors
777 North Capitol Street, NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002

Re: Opposed - MWCOG Board Resolution R13-2013
International Association of Chiefs of Police Position on Firearm Violence

Dear Ms. Young:

On behalf of the Board of County Commissioners ("Board"), we wish to inform you that the Board discussed the MWCOG Board Resolution R13-2013, International Association of Chiefs of Police Position on Firearm Violence.

The Board agreed that the policy resolution adopted by the MWCOG Board of Directors is both inappropriate and disrespectful of the individual positions of the member governments and our law enforcement entities. After a discussion, the Board voted unanimously to withhold payment of Frederick County's FY14 membership dues until further notice.

We believe and agree with other members that the purpose of the Council of Governments is to collaborate on challenges faced by localities unique to the Metropolitan Washington area. Gun control is not such a subject. It is a national and statewide issue, and one in which localities in Maryland are required by statute to comply with the regulations. In addition, there is far from universal agreement that the International Chiefs of Police recommendations adopted by COG would impact gun violence in any meaningful way. The chief law enforcement officers in many jurisdictions, including ours, have not endorsed these recommendations.

Additionally, it is paramount that in the future on matters of major concern and potential controversy that items such as this topic should be held until member jurisdictions have the ability to fully vet and discuss the implications. As in this matter, our Board has previously taken a strong position in opposition to stricter gun measures in Maryland.

The protection of our communities is the primary mission of the varied and multiple law enforcement agencies across America. There are numerous law enforcement organizations which do not share the opinion of the one specifically cited agency in Resolution R13-2013.

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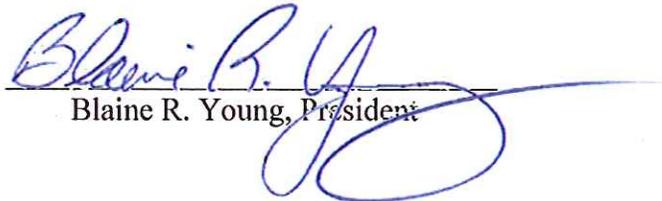
The Board of County Commissioners formally requests that the MWCOG Board moves to reconsider its position on this issue. The Board will re-visit this issue of payment of membership once the position of the MWCOG Board has been addressed.

We trust that you will work diligently to resolve this issue.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND

By:


Blaine R. Young, President

BRY/rc

pc: Board of County Commissioners
Lori L. Depies, CPA, County Manager
John S. Mathias, County Attorney
Erin White, Acting Director, Division of Finance
Joyce Grossnickle, Administrative Officer, Office of the County Manager